

Remarks

Claims 3-13 are pending in the application following entry of this Amendment. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claims 3-5 have been amended. New Claims 6-13 have been added. Claims 3 and 10 are the only independent claims pending.

No new matter is added by the amendments and additions made herein. Support for the amendments to these claims is found in the specification as follows.

The Office Action indicated allowable subject matter in Claims 3 and 4. In response, Claim 3 is amended in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim, with the exception that the recital (d) in the base claim is replaced with the following corrected recital (d):

(d) injecting a filler into an annular space between the sheet and the column, after said sheet is wrapped around the column.

Support for the corrected recital (d) appears in the original specification at page 4, paragraph [0011]. Accordingly, Claim 3 and the Claims 4 and 5 dependent from Claim 3 are in condition for allowance.

Each of the Examiner's objections or rejections is addressed below in the order they were presented.

Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fyfe

Applicant's new claim 10 recites, joining each said lap joint by ultrasonic welding. Fyfe does not disclose a process step of joining overlap joints formed by, the membrane 27, the layer 41, the tape 43 or the tape 48. A person having ordinary skill in the art would interpret Fyfe to disclose non-joined overlap joints. Further, Fyfe does not disclose ultrasonic welding. Claim 10 and the claims dependent therefrom avoid the rejection under 35 USC 102(b).

Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Fyfe in View of Servin

The rejection applies the secondary reference Servin to provide a method of joining lapped sheets in one hour (less time). See page 3 of the Office Action. However, Fyfe does not disclose a process step of joining overlap joints formed by, the membrane 27, the layer 41, the tape 43 or the tape 48. A person having ordinary skill in the art would interpret Fyfe to disclose non-joined overlap joints. Thus, according to Frye no time is spent in joining the overlap joints. A person having ordinary skill in the art would not have interpreted Servin to provide a method of less time to join overlap joints, when Fyfe discloses no time spent to join overlap joints.

Further, no motivation is provided by Fyfe to join overlap joints. It is Applicant's disclosure that provides a basis for claiming that an overlap joint is to be joined. Further Applicant's disclosure provides a basis for claiming that an overlap joint is to be joined by ultrasonic welding. Applicant's specification, at page 4, paragraph [0011] discloses that adhesive is not required, in view of welding the lap joint. Applicant's disclosure should not be used in hindsight reconstruction of Fyfe as providing the motivation to join overlap joints and further to combine ultrasonic welding with the teachings of Frye.

Summary

In view of the amendment and remarks supporting patentability, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues to advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Tigchellar, Applicant

March 31, 2005
(Date)

By: Gerald K. Kita
Gerald K. Kita
Registration No. 24,125

Customer No. 08933
DUANE MORRIS LLP
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396
Direct Dial: 215-979-1863
Facsimile: 215-979-1020
E-Mail: GKKita@DuaneMorris.com